

# THE VISITOR

April 2013

## The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

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**Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt**

**Rev. John Towery, Pastor Emeritus**

**I**n the resurrection story in John's Gospel, **Mary Magdalene** encounters a man outside the tomb, a man she believes to be the gardener. A gardener implies a garden. When the "gardener" begins speaking to Mary, she realizes the gardener is really **Christ** risen from the dead. In other words, Mary is speaking to the risen Christ in the garden.

In the Bible, the "garden" carries powerful symbolic weight, given the prominence of the **Garden of Eden** in the **Genesis** creation story, and in particular, the story of **Adam and Eve**. In a sense, Adam, given responsibility for tending God's creation, is the very first gardener. And yet, as the Genesis story unfolds, Adam and Eve become responsible for the downfall of humanity, and for the descent of creation into the dysfunctional mess of suffering it has become. Adam and Eve are exiled from the garden, and with them all subsequent generations.



Some interpreters of John's Gospel take Mary's encounter with the risen Christ in the garden as symbolism conveying that the risen Christ is the Lord of a new creation. Indeed, the prologue to John's Gospel, which sets the tone for the gospel, begins with a Christ-centered creation poem. The risen Christ in the garden, symbolizing a new or a restored creation, reinforces a theme that runs throughout John's Gospel: Christ restores creation to God, because all of creation was created through Christ in the first place. Those who trust Christ and follow the way of Christ are part of the new creation. In John's language, they're saved.

This new creation is all well and good, but as John's Gospel progresses beyond the initial account of Mary's encounter with the risen Christ in the garden, we quickly discover that the old creation, the one that's a dysfunctional mess, the

one that's in exile from the garden, is still very present. In fact, immediately after the resurrection story, we find the disciples cowering in a room, hiding behind a locked door, scared to death for their lives, fearing their hands and feet may be the next ones nailed to a cross. They've heard that Christ has been resurrected. But nothing's really changed. The **Romans** still occupy **Judea**. Pontius Pilate is still governor. The High Priest still controls the Temple. Crosses still wait for more people to crucify. The world hasn't changed a bit.

So what gives? Has the world been transformed, or hasn't it? Are we back in the garden, or still exiled from it? Or more specifically, what difference does Christ's resurrection really make if the world in which we live is still the same old dysfunctional mess?

First off, it's helpful to remember that in John's Gospel, Jesus never says the whole world will be suddenly transformed overnight. In fact, just the opposite. He warns his disciples that it won't be. He warns them of the difficulties they'll face

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and the persecution they'll suffer. He prays for them, that they may have faith, that they may love one another, that they may all be one, so as to have the strength to withstand life in a world that will continue to be a dysfunctional mess.

On the other hand, he promised them that they could be saved, they could live in holy union with God and one another, they could experience a fullness of joy and life abundant, if they trusted him completely, loved one another as he loved them, and served one another as he served them. If they did this, they would experience God's *shalom* in their lives, the *shalom* God intended for all creation. And then, like flowers blooming on a branch, like plump fruit hanging off a vine, their community would bloom like a garden, teeming with new life in the very midst of a world still in exile from the garden. Their community would be the *shalom* of God, the joy of abundant life, right smack-dab in the middle of the dysfunctional mess.

I believe we encounter the resurrected Christ whenever we ourselves place our full trust in him, when we love as he loved, and when we serve as humbly as he served. When faith in Christ, love for Christ, and the humility of Christ all come together within our community, the presence and power of Christ becomes manifest within us and through us. Christ lives in us and through us. And we bloom with holy fruit. We blossom with that spirit that heals, reconciles, and liberates life. We blossom with the joy Christ promised.

For me, that's what it means to encounter Christ in the garden. Through our faith, love, and humble service, the garden springs up within us, through us, and around us. The garden isn't just some mythical place in the past, or some escapist fantasy, or a paradise to which people will be restored in the distant future. The garden can spring up within us, through us, and around us right now. In this place. On the corner of San Antonio and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and wherever two or more are gathered together in his name. So let us pray for faith in Christ, the love of Christ, the humility to serve the least of our sisters and brothers, that we may be a life-blooming, life-sustaining garden in the very midst of the dysfunctional world in which we live.

TOM

### **Tapestry Singers Seek Volunteers For Spring Concert**

### **CCA Spring Retreat at Slumber Falls**

**L**ucy Hanouille has accepted the position of volunteer coordinator for Tapestry's spring concert.

The annual **CCA Spring Retreat at Slumber Falls Camp in New Braunfels** takes place the weekend of **May 3-5**. Our tentative topic for the retreat is "**Web-of-Life Sacramentalism**." We'll be reflecting on the meaning of sacrament, and in particular, the two Protestant Christian sacraments of baptism and holy communion, and then broadening our view of sacrament to include the sacramental nature of creation and the web-of-life in which we live. Please contact Marilyn Vaché or Tom VandeStadt if you'd like to help plan the event this year.

Tapestry Singers, the women's chorus of which she is a member, is looking for volunteers (Weavers!) to help with their upcoming concert on Saturday, May 4. She is the Weaver coordinator. Tasks include (but aren't limited to):

- Helping set up the stage
- Green room set up
- Ticket sales
- Handing out programs
- Selling merchandise during the intermission
- Green room break down

They also need a videographer and a photographer. All work will occur on the day of the concert on Saturday, May 4th.

Volunteers get a free ticket to the concert as well as the adoration and adulation of seventy-five talented and grateful female vocalists. For more information, Lucy can be contacted at [LuHa61@gmail.com](mailto:LuHa61@gmail.com) or (512) 966-9946.

#### **Church Leadership**

Trustees Chair	John Goff
Deacons Chair	Joe McMillan
Christian Outreach Chair	Kevin Dietz
Moderator	Reuel Nash
Treasurer	David Ross
Financial Secretary	Steve Domingue
Clerk	Betty Bodman
Historian	Jaime Hadley
Web mistress	Sara Ross

## Personals by Pat Oakes

**O**n Sunday morning, March 3, **Deacon Joe McMillan** was headed out the door of his home with communion supplies and his friend **Willie Hall** when he noticed a scary tightness in his chest. He told Willie, "I am either going to be serving communion in an hour or I am having a heart attack." So he did the obvious thing (!)--he drove himself and Willie to the nearby SW Seton Hospital where they checked him over immediately, and sent him by ambulance to the central Seton Hospital. They confirmed he was having a heart attack and installed a stent--he was out of surgery by the time church was over. Kudos to **Jaime Hadley** who dashed out and got more communion supplies so that the service went off without a hitch. Special thanks to friend Willie who took care of getting the car taken care of and getting the things that Joe needed from home. Joe was in the hospital for several days and delighted everyone by coming to church on the 10th looking hale and hearty. Stay well, Joe!



Sharon Brown was among the folks in the congregation who welcomed Joe McMillan back the Sunday after his heart attack--March 10, 2013

Our hearts go out to the **Domingue/Hawes** family. Steve's only sister, **Mona Picou**, 54, died suddenly of a heart attack in her home on Sunday, March 3, in **Denham Springs, Louisiana**. She is survived by her 16-year-old son **Race Picou** and her fiancé **Ray Driskill**, her parents, three brothers and their families. She was a much loved registered nurse and wound care specialist in Denham Springs. Both Steve and Norma were able to go home to be with the family. Steve noted sadly that he had looked forward to their growing old and sharing family stories with everyone.

Our Austin seminarian, **Beth Gleason**, has been called to preach, conduct Sunday services, and provide communion to home-bound members at **Community UCC in San An-**

**tonio**. This will be on an interim basis, Sundays only, through June, with possible renewal through the fall. She has also been called to serve as the director of the **Eco-Camp at Slumber Falls Camp in New Braunfels**. The Eco-camp, from **Saturday, June 15th - Saturday June 22nd**, focuses on environmental learning experiences and projects for junior high students. Families are welcome to attend as well! See Beth for information about the June Eco-Camp.

**Ruth Koenig** reports that a dozen **Koenigs** from **Ohio, Michigan, and Idaho** descended on Austin the last week of March to visit the seven family members here. They came to see the fabulous wildflowers and hear Austin's much-acclaimed music. While it may not have matched the excitement of **SXSW**, birthdays were celebrated, three new members under the age of five months were introduced, and some departing members sported cowboy boots and big hats. She also said when they drove on Koenig Lane several times that week to get to and from where they were staying, she tried to convince them that the city fathers had created the name in honor of their visit, but nobody bought it. Needless to say, like any grandmother, she has pictures, in case anyone is interested.

**Betty and Whit Bodman** finished their spring break week on **St. Patrick's Day**. The major event was shifting Betty's mother, **Florence Jordan**, from **The Summit** over to **Westminster Manor**. Florence now has a larger space and is closer to their house. Getting across the river to visit her has always been a problem, but now they don't have to do that. Florence was a little confused about the move, but they hope that will settle down after a while. Betty's sister **Amy** came down from **Colorado** to help out, and it was good to see her. Whit's break was spent working on a book on the **Qur'an**, which he had half finished, but is now re-organizing. It is slow but very interesting, at least to Whit. His other project during the break was to build a casket! At the end of his break he was only halfway along, but he was enjoying the process (his own design using plywood). Whit says that it is almost as much fun telling people that he is building a casket as it is to actually build it. It is not for Whit or anybody he knows. It is for the liturgy lab at the seminary where the students practice preaching, baptisms, funerals, and other rituals. They used to borrow a casket from a funeral home, but one got damaged a bit, Whit thinks. The funeral home expects to sell the ones that they loaned to them and was not happy to get it back in less than sellable condition. So Whit offered to build one. It has to be lighter than an ordinary casket would be because it will be moved around great deal. When it is finished Whit will have the "chore" of deciding what to put in it. He keeps thinking of all the things that he should NOT

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The **Harris** family capped off a wonderful Spring Break week by attending a gathering of old friends from **John and Warinda's** high school years in Houston. On Saturday, March 16, the group met at a classmate's home in **Travis Heights** to celebrate the **SXSW** debut of Stanley the Stegosaurus, soon to star in an educational children's show. **Alden and Will** had a great time posing with **Stanley** and particularly enjoyed asking various grownups what Mom and Dad were like "in the olden days...". Good food, great company and wonderful to see everyone all grown up and raising a new generation of smart alecks!

The **Tucker/Goodgame** clan went to **Six Flags** for a day during Spring Break. The kids and **Alison** love the rides--the scarier the better. Pam stays on the ground and is grateful every time a ride finishes safely. They also went to **Lake LBJ** for a few days and returned Sunday at the end of spring break. Pam notes that LBJ is a constant level lake and that we would not know we are in a drought from looking at that lake!



**Alison Goodgame, Savanna, Harrison, and Pam Tucker at Six Flags during Spring Break 2013.**

**Doyal and Tommie Pinkard's** son **David** reports he has moved into a larger apartment in Brooklyn, where 2 year old **Daphne** can have her own room. They found the ideal apartment right down their street near **Prospect Park** in **Brooklyn**. It's in the area known as *The Slope*, so when a moving truck left **566 Prospect Avenue**, it simply had to roll down the slope to 588 !

**Ranae Beeker** sends her best to everyone. Her church directory is in storage, so she doesn't have addresses at this time. She hopes to move into her home **Easter** weekend if all goes well with the mortgage process. Her daughter **Alethea** and son-in-law **Willie** are in **Nashville, Tennessee**, where they are in the process of purchasing a home. She misses them terribly, and hopes to see them soon. Her son **Gavin** is there in the **Seattle** area with Ranae, and is really enjoying being there. He is going to be her landscaper and handy man when she gets moved into her new home. She was staying with her folks until

she gets moved in. Her job is going well and she has a great group of people to work with.

**The Board of Christian Outreach** hosted an excellent forum on **March 10**. The discussion focused on the co-ops in Austin and the emerging "new Economy" movement. There were a number of guests and a guest speaker plus great input by our own **Josh Sabik**.



**Josh Sabik talked to the congregation and guests about the co-op movement after church on Sunday, March 10, 2013.**

**Monica and Ricky Masters** (Ricky is the grandson of Eleanor and pastor emeritus **John Towery** and was raised in this church) were very busy in March with **Rodeo Austin**. Ricky's devotion to the rodeo goes back a long time as his dad **Danny** started taking him to the rodeo when he was ten--and that is where he met **Monica** several years ago. **Ricky and Monica** are the parents of 2 1/2 year old **Agnes Janette** who loves the rodeo, too, especially going with **PawPaw** (Danny), dressed in her boots and blue jeans and asking him to go see all of the animals. Monica, 8 1/2 months pregnant with their second child at this writing, was on the calf scramble committee, working many hours a day at the **Austin Heritage Center** to help provide college scholarships for high school seniors. **Ricky and Danny** both serve on the rodeo committee with Ricky putting in 12 hour days attending all the production meetings and making sure that things run smoothly. You may remember that **Monica** had to have a double mastectomy about 5 months ago when they realized she not only was several months pregnant but had early stage breast cancer. She has done wonderfully well, they caught it early, and they are expecting to find out if it is a boy or a girl when she has her scheduled Caesarean on **April 3**. **Mary**, Ricky's mom and John and Eleanor's daughter, reports in other Towery news that **John** celebrated his birthday on **March 25th** and that **Eleanor's** is upcoming on **April 16**, the day **KC** (son of Ches and Maggie Towery) and **Kendra** celebrate their 2nd wedding anniversary.

KC's sister **Krystal** is doing student teaching for her master's degree. **Ches and Maggie** are doing just fine, too. In mid-April the **Massachusetts** contingent of the Towery family--**Tommy and Sally Towery Johnson**, daughter **Pam Johnson** and son **Andrew**, and daughter **Tanya and John Reynolds** and their daughter **Haley** will be arriving to visit John and Eleanor and to meet the new Master's baby. They will all only overlap for 1 day but the are all looking forward to seeing one another! If you would like to send John a belated card and Elenor an on-time one, send the card c/o **Masters, 109 D.B. Wood Road, Georgetown, TX 78628**.

Some of our long-time members remember **David and Edith Scott** who were here with us from **Scotland** for a year in 1986. They are coming to **New York** for a week in June to celebrate their ruby (40th) wedding anniversary. They are "pushing the boat out and staying at the **Waldorf!** Can't wait!", says Edith. They still will have their usual week in the south of **France** in **April** to look forward to first. Too bad that they can't make all the way to Austin. As Edith was writing in the midst of an unusual **March** snowstorm which was burying her optimistic daffodils, she was remembering our lovely bluebonnets and Indian blankets. It was hard to tell her that because of the drought, the spring flowers here are few and far between.

**Felicia Scott** wrote in early March to say that they were hoping for spring soon in **Providence, Rhode Island**. They've had plenty of snow and enjoyed sledding, trips to **Vermont**, and their first white Christmas, but enough is enough. **Skye and Sterling** are growing so fast. They have registered Sterling for kindergarten already, hoping he will be at the same elementary as Skye in the fall (they have a lottery system there). **Eliot** is moving along at **Brown University** on the educational grant which is supposed to end in December and then they will see where life takes

them. **Felicia** is still loving teaching on-line with **Post University**. They wish us all a great spring season and Happy Easter.

**Mel and Pat Oakes** had a wonderful trip to **Iowa City** in late February to celebrate grandson **Ethan's 10th** birthday (double digits!) on the 23rd and son-in-law **Eugene's** on the 24th. They arrived on the Wednesday prior--a little late since Mel had awakened early that morning not feeling well and cancelled the trip. Pat didn't argue since she has been struggling with a bad knee since Christmas and has been ordered to stay off of her feet to see if rest will help her knee problem (avascular necrosis). She was not looking forward to getting through the airport in a wheelchair. When Mel found out he had not purchased trip insurance as he thought he had, he started feeling better and they were booked on a later flight that day. Pat and Mel knew that daughter **Sarah** was coming also (**Joe** had to stay home and work), but what they didn't know was that **Mardie** and her husband **Tony** along with 9 1/2 month old **Durham** were scheduled to come in on Friday afternoon. Sarah was to come at the same time, but was delayed until Saturday by the big snowstorm on Thursday--6 inches of beautiful snow--and enough to give **Emily and Ethan** a snow day on Friday at home with **Gramma and Grampa**. They and **Emily and Ethan** were stunned and delighted with their unexpected arrival and they all had a marvelous time watching Durham get acquainted with his cousins. An additional draw for **Mardie and Tony** in **Iowa City** is that his brother **David** and his family live there also (both David and Elizabeth and Beth and Eugene attend the Congregational church there). Pat and Mel spent the long weekend being delighted that they hadn't cancelled the trip. In fact, they got an extra day in Iowa City as high winds in **Dallas** shut down DFW on the day they were to return. They had another wonderful day with **Emily and Ethan** as it was a conference day and school was out for kids.



The Oakes family: Ethan, Tony with Durham, Mardie, Eugene, Beth, Emily with Ginger, Pat and Mel, Sarah—missing Joe. (Iowa City on Feb. 24, 2013)



Nancy Edison, Cathy Hubbs, and Sara Ross enjoyed the wearing o' the green on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.

## United Christian Church Hosts Marriage Equality Play "8"

**United Christian Church**, is proud to announce a one-night-only reading of "8," a play chronicling the historic trial in the federal constitutional challenge to California's **Proposition 8**, written by Academy Award-winning screenwriter and AFER Founding Board Member **Dustin Lance Black**.

Members of UCC and the local community will perform the staged reading as part of the nationwide presentation of "8." Directed by Catherine C. Hackenberg, UT senior theatre major, the event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at **7 pm on Saturday, April 6 at United Christian Church, 3500 W. Parmer Lane, Austin**. Admission is free and admission tickets can be reserved at Eventbrite:

<http://8theplayuccaustin.eventbrite.com>.

"8" is an unprecedented account of the Federal District Court trial in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (now *Hollingsworth v. Perry*), the case filed by AFER to overturn Proposition 8, which stripped gay and lesbian Californians of the fundamental freedom to marry.

Black, who penned the Academy Award-winning feature film "Milk" and the film "J. Edgar," based "8" on the actual words of the trial transcripts, first-hand observations of the courtroom drama and interviews with the plaintiffs and their families.

The story for "8" is framed by the trial's historic closing arguments in June 2010, and features the best arguments and testimony from both sides. Scenes include flashbacks to some of the more jaw-dropping moments of trial, such as the admission by the Proposition 8 supporters' star witness, David Blankenhorn, that "we would be more American on the day we permitted same-sex marriage than we were on the day before."

On February 7, 2012, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a landmark decision upholding the historic August 2010 ruling of the Federal District Court that found Proposition 8 unconstitutional. The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court and a ruling is expected in June.

Reserve tickets at Eventbrite :

<http://8theplayuccaustin.eventbrite.com>

Informative links: <http://www.8theplay.com/>



Adorable Agnes Masters checks out the program at the Austin Rodeo on March 16. Agnes is the daughter of Ricky and Monica Masters, granddaughter of Mary and Danny Masters, and great-granddaughter of Eleanor and Pastor Emeritus John Towery.

### LIVE

**Sunday, April 21, 2013 | 12:00-2:00pm**

**1909 University Avenue**

**Austin, TX 78705**

**Tickets: \$15/Family or \$5/person**

**100% of proceeds go to Micah 6 Austin**

On Sunday, April 21 **University Avenue Church of Christ** and **University Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ) will present LIVE - a multimedia experience for families of all ages where kids AND adults will learn virtues and make friends together.

LIVE is a special family event that will raise money to benefit **Micah 6 Austin**. Our prayer is that this event will not only raise a significant amount of money for Micah 6 Austin, but will also be a blessing to families helping them grow closer to God together and closer to the larger Christian family in the Austin area. For more information and to reserve tickets visit: <http://www.ualive.org>

## Brazos Association News

April

by Liz Nash

Our Brazos Association Spring Meeting will be held **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** at **St. John's UCC in Burton**. We begin at 3 pm and end after dinner (normally 6 to 6:30). The program topic will be how our churches can respond to natural disasters. In our Association, we are on the "front line" for those who must evacuate and rebuild from hurricanes that strike the Texas coast from the Galveston area and to the east. As we remember from **Katrina**, we also have people who come to our area fleeing major hurricanes in **Louisiana**. We all know, too, that tornadoes and severe storms can and do strike among us. At least one of our churches has provided emergency shelter, and many of us want to reach out to help when these emergencies occur. Some advance planning and thought will let us serve in ministry more effectively at these times. Our discussion will include resources and knowledge shared among our **UCC Southern Conferences** along the Gulf Coast as well as ideas from the experience of St John's in becoming a Red Cross shelter. In our time together, we will also will honor our brother **John Sumner**, pastor of **St. Peter's UCC in Coupland**, as he prepares to retire after a fruitful ministry; have sharing about innovative ministries from our churches; hear from our Conference Minister, **Douglas Anders**; hear reports from committees and ministries, and have elections. Nominees for service among us include **Marianne Muehr** of Weimar UCC for Association Moderator (currently Marianne is the Vice-Moderator), **Judy Sherman**, Associate Minister of St. John's UCC in Burton, for Vice Moderator, **Jewell Ellis-Eyler** of United Christian to serve on our Church and Ministry Committee, and **David Greer** from St. John's UCC in Burton to be submitted to the South Central Conference as our nominee for the Conference Board of Directors. Others can be nominated from the floor before the election. St. John's will be letting each church know how to RSVP. Please let them know how many to expect from your church.

The **South Central Conference Annual Meeting** will be held **Friday, May 31st to Sunday morning, June 2nd** at **Cathedral of Hope in Dallas**, hosted by the North Texas

Association. Keynote speakers will be **Rev. Dr. Stephen Sprinkle, Professor of Practical Theology and Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry at Brite Divinity School in Ft. Worth**; and **Rev. Dr. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister of the United Church of Christ Local Church Ministries**. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conference, and we will be celebrating memories from our history as well as having informative workshops, great fellowship, and inspiring worship. Discounted lodging is available nearby at the **Wyndham Love Field Hotel** if reserved early. All congregations are encouraged to donate hygiene kits for Back Bay Mission and school kits for **Church World Service**. To register, reserve your hotel room, and find out all of the information you need for the meeting, go to [www.sccucc.org](http://www.sccucc.org) and select the Annual Meeting page. Delegates and visitors are invited – all of our church members and friends can register and join us.

Here are two more reminders. Our Association **Back Bay Mission trip will be December 1-7, 2013**. Plan to come for a truly uplifting week of service, worship, learning, and fellowship. If you have not been to Back Bay, you are in for a great experience. The cost is \$120 per person plus food and transportation. Contact Liz Nash for information about how to register: registrations must be in about 3 months in advance. Also, the UCC sponsored **"Mission 4/1 Earth" between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday (April 1 to May 19)** challenges all of our churches to join in planting trees, engage in earth care, and write advocacy letters. See <http://www.ucc.org/earth/about.html> to join this effort.

Blessings in Christ,  
Liz Nash  
Brazos Association Minister

The Congregational Church of Austin  
408 West 23rd Street  
Austin, Texas 78705-5214

**Return Service Requested**

## Deadline for May Visitor — April 22nd

### Mission 4/1 EARTH

For those of us who feel called to affirm God's creation and take on environmental faith projects, the UCC is sponsoring "**Mission 4/1 Earth**" between **Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday** (April 1 to May 19).

This is a challenge for our UCC churches to collectively offer more than one million hours of engaged earth care (clean up, advocacy, education and behavioral changes); collectively plant more than 10,000 trees locally and globally in partnership with the **Arbor Day** foundation and denominational partners; and collectively send more than 100,000 advocacy letters on environmental concerns. See

### Hill Country Ride for AIDS

**George Hetrick, Robin Chapman, and Tom VandeStadt** are once again riding on the **Care Communities Team** in the **Hill Country Ride for AIDS**. This is a fundraiser to raise money for organizations helping people live with AIDS, and the Care Communities is one of the organizations that will benefit from the ride (our church has a Care Communities "care team"). If you would like to sponsor George and/or Tom, please go to [www.hillcountryride.org](http://www.hillcountryride.org) and then click the DONATE link. Click the link that helps you find a rider, and type in George Hetrick or Tom VandeStadt, and then click their name when it appears at the bottom of the page. This will take you to George or Tom's fundraising page, where you can donate money to the cause. George, Robin, and Tom appreciate your support!

### CCA Green Team

Several folks in our church are committed to starting a **Congregational Church of Austin Green Team**, which will explore how to make our church more "green." We'll be exploring the process of green certification set forth by **Greenfaith.org**, and hopefully, working in conjunction with other faith communities in Austin looking to become better stewards of the environment. If you're at all interested, or would like more information, please talk to **Tom VandeStadt, Liz Nash, or Marilyn Vaché**.

### AGE Equipment Drive

In honor of our brother and long-time member, **Mathis Blackstock**, The Board of Christian Outreach (BCO) is sponsoring an equipment drive for AGE (Austin Groups for the Elderly). Their biggest need is for wheelchairs with 20" seats, which are available for as little \$119. The Board of Christian Outreach has started the chair rolling with purchase of two chairs. Please join us by either purchasing a wheelchair, or by putting cash or check (with memo line "Matt Memorial") in an envelope and depositing it in the collection plate.